

HEADLINES:-

- The Election Commission's C-Vigil app is a hit with voters with over 79 thousand violations reported so far since announcement of the General Elections.
- Meghalaya Chief Electoral Officer BDR Tiwari chaired a meeting with enforcement agencies through video conferencing recently.
- In Assam, today is the last day of withdrawal of nomination papers for the first phase of the Lok Sabha polls.
- Electioneering is likely to gain momentum in Assam with the arrival of central leaders of different political parties.
- The Meghalaya police is yet to make any arrest but assured that they are on the job to nab those behind the murder of two persons at Ichamati in East Khasi Hills District.
- The Assam government has extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, in four districts of the state for six months starting from 1st of April.
- A stunning new species of cicada, informally dubbed the "Butterfly Cicada", has been discovered in Meghalaya, by scientists.
- Special sermons on salvation and partaking in the 'Lord's Supper' marked Good Friday yesterday.

VIGIL

The Election Commission's C-Vigil app is a hit with voters with over 79 thousand violations reported so far through the complaints App since the announcement of the General Elections. The EC said in a statement that over 99 percent of complaints have been resolved. More than 58 thousand 500 complaints received are against illegal hoardings and banners. More than 1400 complaints received pertain to money, gifts and liquor distribution.

MEETING

As Lok Sabha elections draw nearer with less than a month left for the voting day in Meghalaya, Chief Electoral Officer BDR Tiwari chaired a meeting with enforcement agencies through video conferencing recently. The CEO sought information from all the central agencies, besides state and district administration on seizures of cash, alcohol, drugs and freebies during the ongoing Model Code of Conduct in the state.

ASSAM

In Assam, today is the last day of withdrawal of nomination papers for the first phase of the Lok Sabha polls. Five seats will be covered in this phase including Jorhat, Lakhimpur, Dibrugarh, Sonitpur and Kaziranga. Nomination of 36 candidates were found valid for the first phase of the elections. The BJP is contesting in all the five seats while the Congress has fielded candidates in four seats and supported Asom Jatiya Parishad at Dibrugarh. Our Guwahati correspondent reports that for the BJP, Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal, MP Pradan Baruah, Kamakhya Prasad Tasha and Topon Kumar Gogoi, MLA Ranjit Dutta are in the fray.

Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi and former MLA Roselina Tirkey have also submitted nominations. The president of Asom Jatiya Parishad, Lurinjyoti Gogoi is up against Mr. Sonowal for the Dibrugarh Lok Sabha seat.

CAMPAIGN

In Assam, electioneering is likely to gain momentum with the arrival of central leaders of different political parties. Sources in the state BJP said that Prime Minister and senior leader Narendra Modi, national President JP Nadda, Union ministers Amit Shah, Arjun Munda, Smriti Irani among others would campaign for the NDA candidates. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal are already campaigning. Assam Pradesh Congress Committee sources said that Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, MP Rahul Gandhi, state party president Bhupen Bora among others will campaign for their candidates. West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee will lead the party's campaign in Assam in the second phase.

POLICE

The Meghalaya police is yet to make any arrest but assured that they are on the job to nab those behind the murder of two persons at Ichamati in East Khasi Hills District on Wednesday. Two persons were allegedly beaten to death by miscreants after an anti-Citizenship Amendment Act rally. The Sub Divisional Magistrate of Sohra has promulgated Section 144 CrPC prohibiting assembly of four or more persons, carrying of arms and engaging in provocative actions.

AFSPA

The Assam government has extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, in four districts of the state for six months starting from 1st of April. The 'Disturbed Area' tag under the AFSPA has been extended in areas covering Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Charaideo and Sivasagar districts. The extension of AFSPA has been extended till 30th of September this year.

SPECIES

A stunning new species of cicada, informally dubbed the "Butterfly Cicada", has been discovered in Meghalaya, by scientists. This cicada, belonging to the genus Becquartina, marks the first-ever record of this genus in the country. It was first found around Balpakram National Park in South Garo Hills District in 2017 by Vivek Sarkar of the Wildlife Institute of India.

GOOD

Special sermons on salvation and partaking in the 'Lord's Supper' marked Good Friday yesterday. The faithful offered prayers, commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus Christ to save mankind, as per Christian belief. Prayer services were held in the various churches. At the Calvary, in front of the Mary Help of Christians Cathedral in Shillong, Good Friday service was held with focus on "Word of the Lord" from the Cross. Attired mostly in black as a mark of mourning, Christians of all denominations observed Good Friday through prayers and penance.
